Doordarshan Serial

*327. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is my any feed-back with Government regarding the impact of Doordarshan serials 'Vikram Aur Betal' and 'Dada-Dadi Ki Kahanian' on Children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when would these serials conclude?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL): (a) and (b) The only feed back available on these programmes is through letters received by Doordarshan from viewers and it indicates that the Programmes have been generally liked by the viewers.

(c) 'Vikram Aur Betal' is likely to conclude on 14-9-86 and 'Dada-Dadi Ki Kahanian' on 7-9-86.

Provision of safe drinking water to problem villages

*328. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the time-bound targets fixed for the supply of safe drinking water to the problem villages during the current year, statewise; and

(b) whether priority would be given to hilly and tribal areas; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON) : (a) and (b) The national target for coverage of villages with a safe supply of drinking water in 1986-87 is 35930. The State-wise targets are given in the attached statement.

Supply of drinking water to the rural population is the responsibility of the States. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States through assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The Seventh Plan strategy gives special attention to problems of drinking water of hilly areas. In view of the rugged terrain high altitudes and remoteness, the drinking water supply strategy would involve development of gravitational sources of water, storage tanks, hydraulic ram etc., etc. The instructions for the implementation of the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme provide for the coverage of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe habitation on first priority. It is also to be ensured that the location of water source/water collection point is such that the poor sections of the society like Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have equal access to this facility. From the funds provided under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, the State Governments have been asked to provide a minimum outlay equivalent to the percentage of funds earmarked under the Minimum Needs Programme for the Tribal Sub-Plan to be used exclusively for providing drinking water facilities to tribal populations.